REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied references have been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 16-18, 20, 21, 23 and 25-35 presently appear in the application (with claims 27-33 withdrawn by the examiner) and define patentable subject warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 16, 19 and 20 have been objected to for depending from a claim that is withdrawn from consideration. This objection is obviated by the amendment to claim 16.

Claims 16, 20, 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is obviated by the amendment to the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 19-26, 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement. This rejection is believed to be obviated by the amendments to the claims. The recitation in claim 16 of a variant polypeptide of human Rgr consisting of an amino acid sequence with at least 98% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2 is supported in the specification in paragraph [0029]. The recitation in claim 16 of (c) the abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr is supported in

original claim 7 and in paragraph [0030], and all two and three combinations of SEQ ID NOs:5, 6 and 7 are disclosed at page 23, lines 14-18.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 19-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is obviated by the amendments to the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 20, 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by D'Adamo et al., *Oncogene* 14:1295-1305 (1997) or Miller et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272(9):5600-5605 (1997). This rejection is obviated by the amendment to claims 16 and 20.

Attached hereto are two amino acid sequence alignments between human Rgr of SEQ ID NO:2 and rabbit Rgr and between human Rgr and human RalGDS. The percent sequence identities between human Rgr and rabbit Rgr and between human Rgr and human RalGDS are, respectively, 51% and 49%. Accordingly, the rejected claims as amended are not anticipated by D'Adamo or Miller.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 20 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Penn et al., WO 01/57278. This rejection is obviated by cancellation of claim 22 without prejudice and the amendments to claims 16, 20 and 25. Claims 23-25 recite the closed language of "consisting of" and therefore cannot be anticipated by molecules which contain more than the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, 6 or 7.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 20 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Accession No. BI837800 (NIH Mammalian Gen Collection, October 4, 2001). This rejection is also obviated by cancellation of claim 22 without prejudice and amendments to claims 16, 20 and 25 to use the "consisting of" language with regard to SEQ ID NO:8 and SEQ ID NOs:5-7.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their

allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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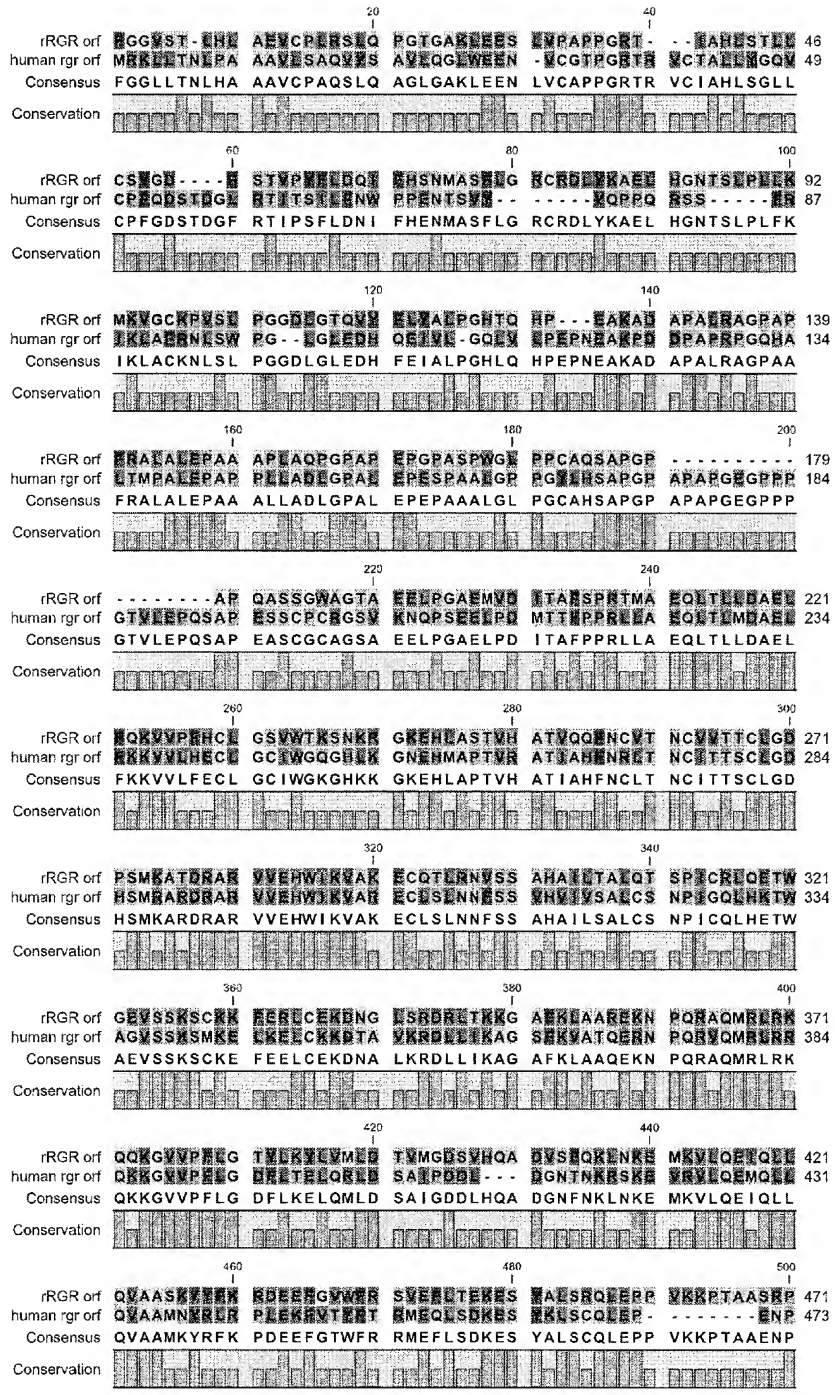
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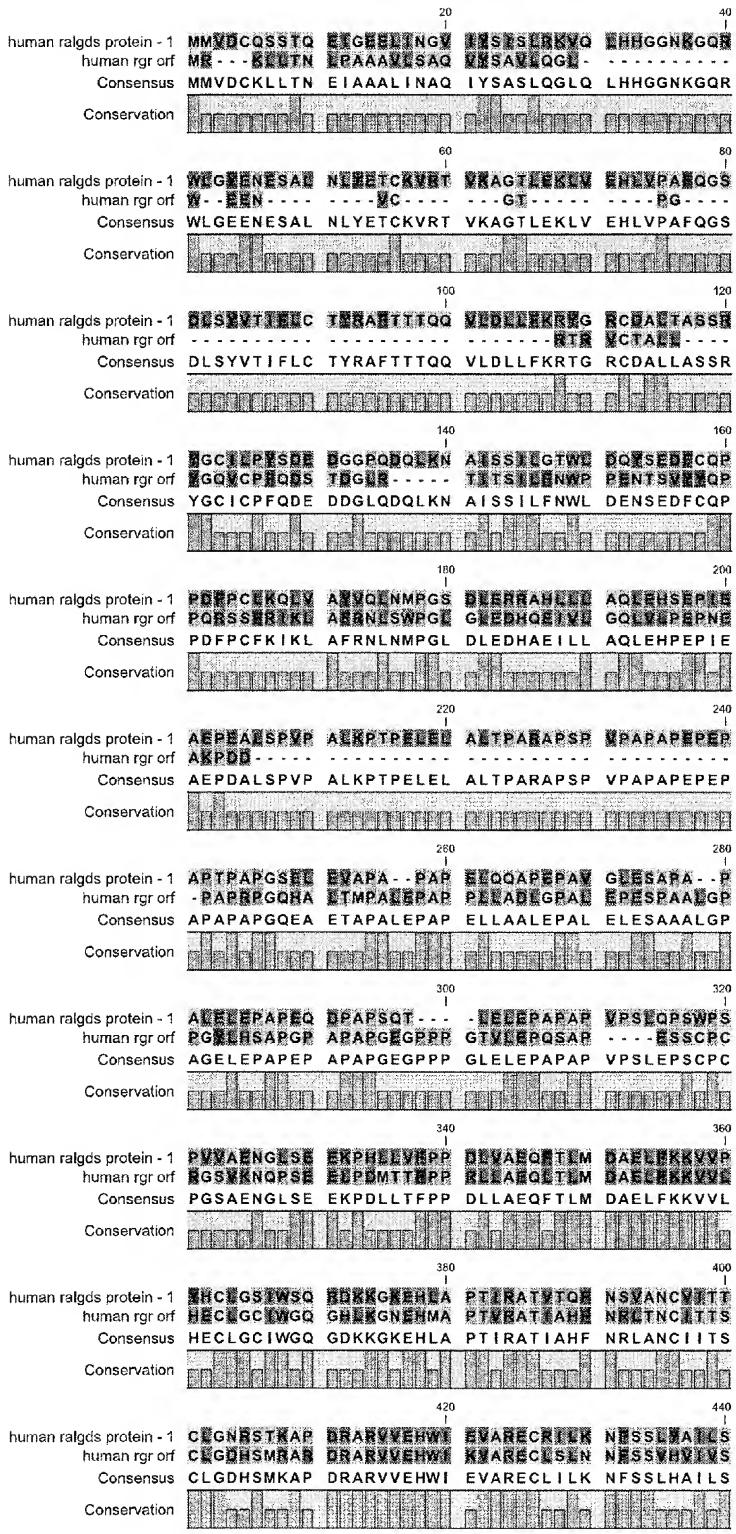
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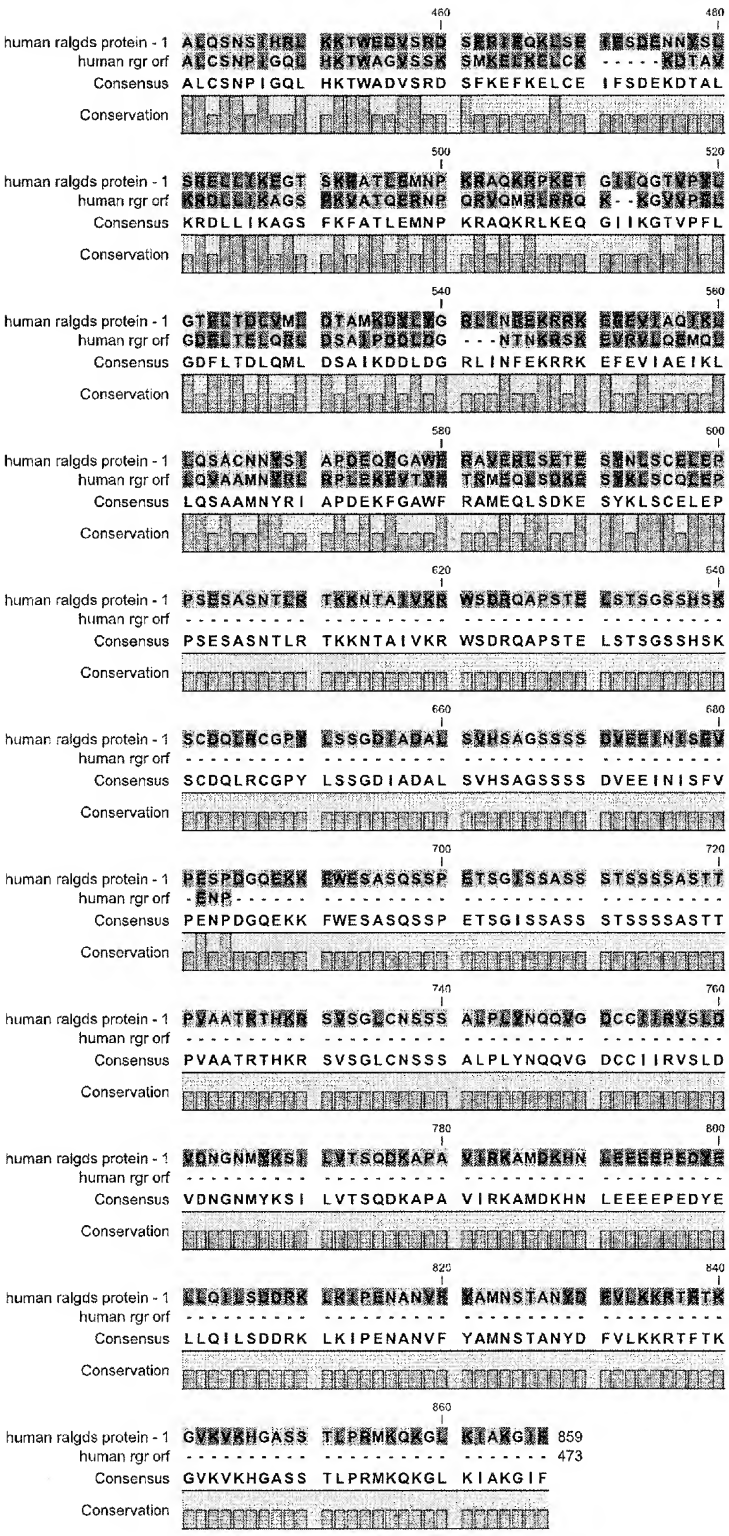
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